



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 5033

LCO No. 497

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Referred to Committee on Transportation

Introduced by:
(TRA)

***AN ACT REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION AND USE OF SEAT
SAFETY BELTS ON SCHOOL BUSES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-275 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) The term "school bus" means any motor bus painted,
4 constructed, equipped and registered as hereinafter provided, which is
5 regularly used for transporting school children to and from school or
6 school activities whether or not for compensation or under contract to
7 provide such service. No vehicle shall be registered as a school bus
8 unless it complies with all requirements of sections 14-275 to 14-281,
9 inclusive, as to color, markings, equipment and inspection, and each
10 such vehicle shall be inspected prior to such registration in accordance
11 with regulations prescribed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.
12 The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may also conduct
13 random, unannounced inspections of any registered school bus. Any
14 school bus that transports individuals in wheelchairs shall meet the
15 requirements of subsection (e) of section 14-100a in order to pass
16 inspection. The provisions of said sections requiring other vehicles to

17 stop at the signal of the operator of a registered school bus shall not
18 apply to a signal by the operator of any vehicle not registered as a
19 school bus and not complying with all requirements for such
20 registration.

21 (b) Each school bus shall be painted a uniform yellow color known
22 as "National School Bus Glossy Yellow", except for the fenders and
23 trim which may be painted black and the roof which may be painted
24 white, and shall have conspicuously painted on the rear and on the
25 front thereof, in black lettering of a size to be determined by the
26 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, the words "School Bus-Stop on
27 Signal", except that each school bus equipped with an eight-light
28 warning system shall have the words "School Bus" painted on the rear
29 and on the front thereof in such lettering. The sides of such vehicles
30 may be inscribed with the words "School Bus", the school name or such
31 other legend or device as may be necessary for purposes of
32 identification or safety. Each school bus shall have conspicuously
33 painted on the rear and sides of such vehicles, in black lettering of a
34 size to be determined by the commissioner, the name of the school bus
35 company, the school bus company's telephone number and the school
36 bus number.

37 (c) Each school bus shall be equipped with special automatic,
38 electrically-operated flashing stop signals, which shall be independent
39 and separate from the braking, stop and tail lights of standard
40 equipment. Such flashing lights may include automatic traffic
41 signalling devices showing red and amber lights and shall be so
42 located that adequate warning will be afforded to both oncoming and
43 overtaking traffic, except that each school bus manufactured on and
44 after October 1, 1984, and registered for use in this state shall be
45 equipped with an eight-light warning system, showing two red
46 flashing stop signals and two amber flashing warning signals on the
47 front and rear of the bus, and a stop semaphore. The commissioner
48 may adopt standards for an eight-light warning system and standards
49 and specifications for the construction of school buses and for

50 equipment to be maintained on school buses consistent with the
51 provisions of sections 14-275 to 14-281, inclusive. Both public and
52 private owners of school buses shall maintain a record of such kinds of
53 repairs made to such buses as the commissioner may require and such
54 work record shall be available at all times to the commissioner and the
55 commissioner's designated assistants. All such maintenance records
56 shall be retained for a period of two years. Each school bus shall be
57 equipped with emergency lighting equipment as provided by section
58 14-97a, with a defrosting device as provided by section 14-97, with a
59 system of mirrors as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations Title
60 49, Section 571.111, as amended, or with an outside mirror as provided
61 by section 14-99 and a system of crossover mirrors designed and
62 mounted so as to give the driver a view of the road from the front
63 bumper forward to a point where direct observation is possible and
64 along the left and right sides of the bus, with a signalling device as
65 provided by section 14-101, and with chain nonskid devices for
66 immediate use on at least one outside or inside rear tire on each side or
67 tires designed to prevent skidding on all rear wheels when weather
68 and highway conditions require such use. Commencing February 1,
69 1974, each new school bus with a vehicle air brake system shall be so
70 equipped that the brake system is operated from a separate air
71 reservoir tank other than the air reservoir tank used to operate any
72 other compressed air or vacuum operated devices with which the
73 school bus may be equipped. Commencing January 1, 2011, each
74 school bus shall be equipped with lap/shoulder (3-point) seat safety
75 belts. The seating requirements of section 14-273 shall be observed.
76 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 14-98, school buses may be
77 equipped with tires incorporating a metal nonskid device during the
78 period from October fifteenth to April thirtieth, inclusive. Each school
79 bus that is model year 2007 or newer shall be equipped with a crossing
80 control arm mounted on the right end of the front bumper. The
81 commissioner shall establish additional standards and requirements
82 for such devices in regulations adopted in accordance with the
83 provisions of chapter 54.

84 (d) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall, for a
85 first offense, be deemed to have committed an infraction, and for each
86 subsequent offense shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor
87 more than five hundred dollars. The commissioner shall suspend the
88 registration of any school bus not equipped with seat safety belts, as
89 required by subsection (c) of this section, until seat safety belts have
90 been installed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	14-275
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Statement of Purpose:

To require school buses to be equipped with seat safety belts.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]